



Town of Dedham

Summer Tips for Sustainability

During the summer, energy usage and water consumption increase and carbon emissions rise. With climate change and the well-being of the environment and our community in mind, here are some tips for conservation.

In the Garden:

- Lawn watering allowed on Mondays (odds) and Thursdays (evens): Dedham Westwood Water District- <http://www.dwwd.org/current-water-conditions>
- Use a watering can of 3 gallons or less for watering instead of a hose
- Choose native and drought tolerant plants, group them based on watering needs
- Water plants and lawn early in the morning; do not over-water plants
- Use a hose nozzle, drip irrigation or trickle hoses to conserve water
- Keep a rain gauge in the yard to monitor recent precipitation- most plants require about 1 inch or rain per week during the summer
- Use rain barrels under a gutter to capture natural rainwater: purchase from the Dedham Westwood Water District, \$50 for residents- <http://www.dwwd.org/rain-barrels>
- Install WaterSense labeled weather based irrigation controller
- When mowing your lawn, keep grass longer and leave grass clippings on the lawn to return nutrients into the soil
- Compost: purchase compost bins from the Town of Dedham by contacting the Environmental Department at 781-751-9213 or email vleclair@dedham-ma.gov.

In the House:

- Wash full loads of laundry and use cold water to save energy and money
- Sign up for a FREE home energy assessment with Next Step Living at <http://nextsteplivinginc.com/dedham-sustainability-advisory-committee/>
- Install WaterSense labeled and other water conserving bathroom fixtures
- Install an instant water heater to avoid running the sink while the water heats up
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with Energy Star qualified lighting (CFLs and LEDs)- CFLs are recyclable at the Town Transfer Station, 10 Incinerator Road, open Saturdays only for Dedham residents 9:00-12:00
- Raise thermostat by 2 degrees and use ceiling fan or program thermostat to 76 degrees
- Use power/smart strips to reduce "phantom electricity" usage in your home
- Use green cleaning products, especially on exterior surfaces (car, deck, boat, RV, grills); look for the Design for the Environment (DfE) or Green Seal label
- Recycle: obtain additional recycling bins free of charge by registering at the DPW's website <http://www.dedham-ma.gov/index.cfm?pid=17354>

Travel & Driving:

- Increase gas mileage by
 - obeying the speed limit
 - going easy on the breaks and avoiding hard accelerations
 - unloading unnecessary items to reduce weight
 - keeping tires inflated to the proper pressure
- Do not idle-Massachusetts - law limits idling to 5 minutes
 - Idling for more than 10 seconds uses more gas than turning a car on and off
 - Every hour of idling creates 10 pounds of carbon dioxide and uses a half gallon of gas
- Use public transportation, carpool, bike or walk
- Wash vehicles at vehicle washing facilities (do not do it yourself, but if you do, use a bucket not a hose)
- When going on vacation, choose an Energy Star hotels or Eco-boutiques.